

DHANMONDI EIDGAH

# Public park a far cry



BDR is running a fair price shop on the western part of the Eidgah Maidan.

CITY CORRESPONDENT

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Making of a public park on the open space of the western part of Dhanmondi Eidgah on Sat Masjid Road has become uncertain due to unavailability of funds from the Public Works

Department (PWD).

"We have sent a letter to the Ministry of Public Works. We will not get the fund this financial year as this is the end of the year. The design of the park is done we are now waiting for the allocation," said a high official PWD.

At present the land is occupied by a fair price shop of BDR, water pump house of Wasa, some small shops and a cleaners' shed of Dhaka City Corporation on the adjacent footpath.

The historic Eidgah, a demarcated area for Eid congregation

built during the Mughal period in 1640.

The civil engineering and arboriculture wings of PWD are concerned departments to convert the area into a park. Finding the public land unattended for years the Eidgah mosque com-

mittee tried to encroach the land and build a madrasa on it.

In the plan Tk 13 lakh was allocated for fencing the park. The project was submitted to the chief engineer's office on February 14. The department of arboriculture, planning the landscaping of the park had also

several trees on the site.

The mosque committee claimed that the whole area inside the boundary of the Eidgah Maidan including the piece of vacant land situated between Sta Masjid Road and the western boundary of the Eidgah is a Waqf estate.

At present the land is occupied by a fair price shop of BDR, water pump house of Wasa, some small shops and a cleaners' shed of Dhaka City Corporation on the adjacent footpath. The historic Eidgah, a demarcated area for Eid congregation built during the Mughal period in 1640. Finding the public land unattended for years the Eidgah mosque committee tried to encroach the land and build a madrasa on it

sent their plan and design of the project estimating Tk 5 lakh.

On June 11 last year the Ministry of Housing and Public Works approved the plan.

According to the plan there will be a grill-fenced boundary and the arboriculture wing would plant trees along the Sat Masjid Road.

The local ward commissioner and the Eidgah mosque committee have attempted to grab the around one bigha land situated between Sat Masjid Road and the Eidgah. On January 23, the committee with the help of the ward commissioner chopped down

PWD officials claimed that the Eidgah belongs to the Department of Archaeology and the mosque is a Waqf estate but the remainder of the land, an area of 2.5 acres belongs to PWD. The mosque authority has been using parts of their land upon receiving the permission from PWD.

Residents of the area want the place to be converted into a park but fears that if the process is delayed the powerful mosque committee backed by local ward commissioner Abul Khaer Bablu who is now in prison.

## Unauthorised CNG

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manager of Uttara Motors, said the company has stopped selling autorickshaws in 2004 when BRTA stopped giving registration of the vehicles.

He said the extra vehicles might come to the city from other divisional cities.

About curbing these unauthorised autorickshaws, he said BRTA can remove all these vehicles during yearly fitness tests of them. More mobile courts can be introduced against these unauthorised autorickshaws, he suggested.



## Railway's delay

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railway authorities after the media exposed the anomalies.

The government has recently undertaken a project called Integrated Development of Hatirjheel area including Panthapath-Pragati Sarani link road to construct a ring road instead of elevated roadway.

According to the proposal, submitted on April 22, the project will be implemented by three organisations -- Rajuk, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority and Local Government Engineering Department at an estimated cost of around Tk 1,600 crore.

Dhaka Wasa has a drainage project in the canal, while Rajuk's development scheme will restore Begunbari canal and Hatirjheel and its catchment area with beautification and demarcation. The LGED will construct peripheral ring road.

As per land acquisition rules, acquired land but unused for long should be turned into khas land or at best may be derequisitioned to the original owner. But such land should not be leased out in the manner it has been, said a

railway official.

The then prime minister Khaleda Zia laid foundation stone of the BTMA building on October 22, 2006 and that of FBCCI building on October 8 immediately before her government stepped down on October 27.

According to railway officials, in case of renting out land under such deal it must not exceed five-year term for renewal, but in this case the deal has been made for 60 years.

Prof Md Mujibur Rahman, who led the study group of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) on the Begunbari canal, said earlier that constructions of BGMEA building, Sonargaon Hotel extension and proposed FBCCI building in Begunbari canal are not compatible with the recommendations the study group had made in its report to Rajuk.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) earmarks the Begunbari canal as a natural canal and clearly prohibits any change to its status.

10x3

10x2

10x3